

SN: 09/875,692

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 60001.0016US01/MS150592.1

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of searching for a help utility, comprising the steps of:

providing a utility search dialog rendered via an interface of a computer;

receiving via the interface input of one or more search keywords directed to at least one help utility;

searching a single database containing a plurality of ~~help-utilities~~ help files and wizards received in the database from all of a plurality of different computer operating systems, wherein the plurality of ~~help-utilities~~ help files and wizards are associated with the plurality of different operating systems and assist in maintaining and configuring the plurality of different computer operating systems;

if after the step of searching the database containing the plurality of help files and wizards, at least one wizard of the plurality of help files and wizards is found matching the keywords, finding a help utility matching the keywords among the plurality of help-utilities; and

executing the at least one wizard help-utility;

if after the step of searching the database containing the plurality of help files and wizards, no help files or wizards are found matching the keywords, then:

providing the utility search dialog;

receiving one or more additional keywords directed to at least one of the plurality of help files and wizards; and

searching the database containing the plurality of help files and wizards; wherein the plurality of help files and wizards are in a variety of different languages.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
determining whether more than one ~~help-utility~~ help file and more than one wizard is ~~found matching~~ match the keywords;

SN: 09/875,692

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 60001.0016US01/MS150592.1

displaying all ~~help utilities~~ help files and wizards found to match the keywords; and
selecting one of the help files and wizards ~~all help utilities~~ found to match keywords.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
if after the step of searching the database containing the plurality of help files and wizards ~~help utilities~~, no help file and wizard ~~help utility~~ is ~~are~~ found matching the keywords but a related wizard ~~help utility~~ that closely approximates the keywords is found, then displaying the related wizard ~~help utility~~; and
invoking the related wizard ~~help utility~~.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of help utilities further include help files and wizards ~~help utilities~~ provided by a variety of computer software applications.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein ~~the plurality of help utilities comprises a plurality of wizards~~, each wizard is associated with one of the plurality of different computer operating systems and ~~wherein the related help utility is a wizard~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein ~~the plurality of help utilities comprises a plurality of help files~~, each help file is associated with one of the plurality of different computer operating systems and ~~wherein the related help utility is a help file~~.

9. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the search keywords may be input using a plurality of different languages according to preferred spoken languages and ~~wherein the plurality of help utilities are executed in a variety of different languages~~.

SN: 09/875,692

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 60001.0016US01/MS150592.1

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of searching for a function wizard, comprising the steps of:

providing a help file and wizard search dialog via an interface of a computer;

inputting one or more search keywords;

searching one database containing a plurality of help files and wizards according to the search keywords wherein the plurality of help files and wizards are associated with different computer operating systems and include wizards provided to the database contemporaneously by the different computer operating systems to assist a user in utilizing the different computer operating systems;

finding a wizard matching the search keywords; and

invoking the wizard.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of searching for a function wizard, comprising the steps of:

providing a database containing a plurality of help files and function wizards wherein the plurality of help files and function wizards includes function wizards provided to the database contemporaneously from a variety of computer operating systems to assist a user in utilizing the variety of computer operating systems and function wizards provided to the database from a variety of computer software applications;

providing a help file and function wizard search dialog;

inputting one or more search terms directed to one of the plurality of help files and function wizards;

initiating a search within the database for a function wizard matching one of the plurality of help files and function wizards based on the search terms;

finding a function wizard matching one of the plurality of help files and function wizards;

and

executing the function wizard;

whereby the search within the database yields function wizards across different operating systems.

SN: 09/875,692

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 60001.0016US01/MS150592.1

12. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~readable~~ storage medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer perform the steps of:

providing a utility search dialog;

inputting one or more search keywords directed to one of a plurality of help files and wizards utilities;

searching one database containing the plurality of help files and wizards utilities including help files and wizards utilities provided to the database by a plurality of different computer operating systems that are connected in a network to assist a user in utilizing the different computer operating systems to configure hardware of a set of peripheral devices;

finding a help utility wizard matching the keywords;

executing the help utility wizard; and

if after the step of searching the database, no help file or wizard utility is found matching the keywords but a related help wizard utility is found that closely approximates the keywords, then displaying the related help wizard utility.

13. (Currently amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of Claim 12 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the steps of:

determining whether more than one help file or wizard utility is found matching the keywords;

displaying all help files and wizards utilities found to match the keywords; and

selecting one of all help files and wizards utilities found to match the keywords.

14. (Currently amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of Claim 12 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the steps of:

if after the step of searching the database containing the plurality of help files and wizards utilities, no help file or wizard utility is found matching the keywords, then providing the utility search dialog;

SN: 09/875,692

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 60001.0016US01/MS150592.1

inputting one or more additional keywords directed to one of the plurality of help files and wizards utilities; and

searching the database containing the plurality of help files and wizards utilities.

15. (Currently amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of Claim 12 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the step of invoking the related help wizard utility.

16. (Currently amended) A system for searching for a help utility, comprising a computer program module operative:

to provide a utility search dialog;

to input one or more search terms directed to one of a plurality of help files and wizards utilities wherein each help file or wizard utility is provided to a database by and associated with a different operating system to guide a user in configuring or utilizing that operating system;

to search the database containing the plurality of help files and wizards utilities;

to find a help-utility wizard matching at least one of the search terms;

to execute the help-utility wizard;

if after the step of searching the database, no help file or wizard utility is found matching at least one of the search terms but a related help-utility wizard is found [[that]] closely approximating[[es]] the search terms, to display the related help-utility wizard; and

to invoke the related help-utility wizard.

17. (Currently amended) The computer program module of Claim 16, further operative:

to determine whether more than one help-utility wizard is found matching at least one of the search terms;

to display all help files and wizards utilities found to match at least one of the search terms; and

to select one of all help files and wizards utilities found to match at least one of the search terms.

SN: 09/875,692

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 60001.0016US01/MS150592.1

18. (Currently amended) The computer program module of Claim 16, further operative:

if after the step of searching the database containing the plurality of help files and wizards utilities, no help file or wizard utility is found matching at least one of the search terms, to provide the utility search dialog;

to input one or more additional search terms directed to one of the plurality of help files and wizards utilities; and

to search the database containing the plurality of help files and wizards utilities.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A computer ~~readable~~ storage medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer perform the steps of:

providing a utility search dialog;

receiving search keywords directed to at least one help file or wizard utility;

searching a plurality of help files and wizards utilities across a variety of computer operating systems wherein the plurality of help files and wizards utilities are associated with and assist in maintaining or configuring the variety of computer operating systems;

finding a ~~help-utility wizard~~ matching the keywords; and

if after the step of searching the plurality of help files and wizards utilities, no ~~help-utility wizard~~ is found matching the keywords but a related ~~help-utility wizard~~ [[that]] closely approximates the keywords ~~is found~~, then displaying the related ~~help-utility wizard~~.

21. (Currently amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of Claim 20 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the steps of:

determining whether more than one help file or wizard utility is found matching the keywords;

displaying all help files and wizards utilities found to match the keywords; and

selecting one of all help files and wizards utilities found to match the keywords.

SN: 09/875,692

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 60001.0016US01/MS150592.1

22. (Currently amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of Claim 20 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the steps of:

if after the step of searching the plurality of help files and wizards utilities, no help file or wizard utility is found matching the keywords, then providing the utility search dialog;

receiving one or more additional keywords directed to at least one of the plurality of help files and wizards utilities; and

searching the plurality of help files and wizards utilities.

23. (Currently amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of Claim 20 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the step of invoking the related ~~help utility~~ wizard.

24. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the variety of computer operating systems comprises different computer operating systems that are connected in a network.

25. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for searching and managing a plurality of help files and wizards utilities, comprising the steps of:

providing a help file and wizard utility search dialog via an interface of a computer;

receiving via the interface a search keyword directed to a help file or wizard utility;

in response to receiving the search keyword, searching the plurality of help files and wizards utilities across a plurality of computer operating systems and a plurality of computer software applications;

finding a ~~help utility~~ wizard matching the keywords; and

executing the ~~help utility~~ wizard matching the keyword.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein at least one of the plurality of help files and wizards utilities is provided by a different computer operating system than other help files and wizards utilities of the plurality of help files and wizards utilities.

SN: 09/875,692

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 60001.0016US01/MS150592.1

27. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein the plurality of computer operating systems are connected in a network.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein at least one of the plurality of help files and wizards ~~utilities~~ is provided by a different computer software application than other help files and wizards ~~utilities~~ of the plurality of help files and wizards ~~utilities~~ and wherein the plurality of computer software applications are connected in a network.